



The Region III Report

The FEMA Region III Information Source, Philadelphia, PA

August 19, 2002

FY 02 Supplemental Funding Approved

In the last edition of this newsletter we mentioned that some of the FY 02 supplemental funding could be affected by contingency language contained in the conference report. Those contingencies have now been resolved and the amounts that FEMA will receive from the supplemental legislation are now clear. \$100 million will be

available for first responder planning, \$56 million will be available for planning for state and local EOC's and \$7 million for secure communication to the states. Funding will also support Citizen Corps, a national mutual aid program. The urban search and rescue weapons of mass destruction training will receive \$32.4 million.

Statistics show need to promote flood insurance in Region III states

Statistics compiled by the Flood Insurance Administration indicate a need for FEMA and the states in Region III to continue promoting the purchase and retention of flood insurance. While statistics compiled for the

period September 2000 through September 2001 show a modest growth in some Region III states, they were well behind large gains in Texas and Minnesota. Two of Region III's states had a decline in flood insurance policies for the period.

Revised Atlantic hurricane forecast

Dr. Gray, the noted hurricane forecaster has downgraded his forecast for the 2002 Atlantic Hurricane season but still recommends caution. "The fact that we have witnessed two weak early season high latitude named storms does not mean we will have an active hurricane season," said Gray. "In fact, due to recent changes in climate signals, we now believe the 2002 Atlantic basic hurricane season will be considerably below the long term average and much below what has been experienced in six of the last seven years. "

The forecast reduces the May 31 prediction of 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes to nine named storms, four hurricanes and only one major hurricane. The long-term average is 9.6 named storms, 5.9 hurricanes and 2.3 major hurricanes per year.

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- ▶ **Update on Fire Grants:** Twenty-four more Region III fire departments received grant awards in the third round of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, which occurred August 8. Pennsylvania had the largest number of fire departments receiving awards this time, 12, while West Virginia had 7, Virginia 4, and Maryland 1. The largest Region III grant award (\$203,624) went for a Lebanon, Virginia application for a new firefighting vehicle. The total amount released by the Fire Administration so far is nearly \$55 million. The next round of fire grant announcements is scheduled for September 9. (Contact Ross Fredenburg 215-931-5614)

 - ▶ **Region III Senior Leaders Homeland Security Conference:** Region III is hosting a homeland security conference in Philadelphia November 12-14. Participants will include representatives from federal agencies, state homeland security advisors, Governor Chiefs of Staff, state emergency management agencies, emergency management associations as well as many local officials. Invitations will be going out this week. This conference is by invitation only. Please contact your state emergency management agency if you are interested in attending this conference. (Contact: Bob Welch 215-931-5540)

 - ▶ **New Policy Guidance for Community Rating System (CRS) and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Compliance** has been issued by FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration. It stiffens requirements for CRS communities to maintain their standing in the rating system. (Contact Marty Frengs 215-931- 5532)

 - ▶ **Improved mapping service:** FEMA HQ has announced the release of Phase II of the Information Technical Services Mapping and Analysis Center Interactive Mapping Web Site for the FEMA Intranet: <http://gisactivemaps.fema.net>. This new release includes an on-line tutorial that provides both an overview of the site, as well as instructions on using each of the GIS tools on the site. (Contact Chuck Goehringer 215-931-5696)

 - ▶ **West Virginia Field Office Closing:** The West Virginia disaster recovery operation is winding down and the Disaster Field Office in Beaver is expected to close within the next few weeks. Housing displaced families in mobile homes and travel trailers is the focus of activity. After the closing, close-out work will continue in Big Chimney and the human services assistance will continue from an office in Beckley.

 - ▶ **Additional email addresses wanted:** Since the first edition of this newsletter went out earlier this month, we have received a few suggestions for additional addressees. We would like this newsletter to go as far and wide as possible, so send your suggestions to Ross Fredenburg at Ross.Fredenburg@Fema.gov or 215-931-5614.